

Site Activities Update

R&H Oil/Tropicana Energy Site
San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas

August 2013

This fact sheet will tell you about...

- Current Status
- Benefits
- Background Information
- Health Considerations
- Record of Decision
- Where to get more information

Current Status

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has entered into an administrative settlement agreement and order on consent with a group of respondents to perform a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS) at the R&H Oil/Tropicana Energy Site. The issue to be addressed by the RI/FS is to evaluate the nature and extent of contamination at the site, assess the risk from these contaminants to human health and the environment, and evaluate potential cleanup alternatives.

The initial field activity was the installation of five off-site ground water monitoring wells. Wells were installed during the last week of January 2011 in the neighborhoods east of the site along Brunswick Boulevard, Fitch Street, and Milvid Avenue. The wells were sampled to determine if the shallow groundwater beneath the neighborhood has been impacted by activities at the site.

The sample results were consistent with previous samples collected in the general area as part of the former Kelly Air Force Base investigation activities.

In the Spring of 2011, investigation activities were conducted at the Site and included soil sampling, and installation and sampling of the monitoring wells. The investigation activities started at the end of May and lasted approximately three weeks. The samples were sent to the laboratory for analysis.

In October 2011, a second round of sampling of the groundwater monitoring wells took place. In addition, Non-Aqueous Phase Liquid (NAPL) measurements, surface water, and the installation and sampling of on-site soil vapor monitoring probes occurred.

The installation and sampling of two additional offsite shallow groundwater monitoring wells and two soil va-

por monitoring ports occurred in May 2012. Reinstallation of one of the offsite vapor monitoring ports and re-sampling of both offsite vapor monitoring ports occurred in October 2012.

Benefits

The purpose of the remedial investigation is to identify the nature and extent of soil and groundwater contamination and potential vapor intrusion exposure pathways. The information will be used in developing remediation strategies to address potential risks posed by the impacted soils and groundwater.



Background Information

The R&H Oil/Tropicana Energy Site, located at 403 Somerset Road, San Antonio, Texas, 78211, was used for various petroleum-refining operations since approximately 1934. The northern tract previously housed oil refineries and most recently a waste oil recycling facility. The southern tract previously housed oil refineries, a petroleum distribution facility, and most recently fuel/gasoline blending operations. The waste oil recycling activities on the northern tract and the fuel/gasoline blending operation on the southern tract ceased in approximately the late 1980's or early 1990's. The site is presently inactive.



The site is located approximately five miles southwest of downtown San Antonio. The site is bordered by an auto service center to the north, a Union Pacific Railroad line, an auto repair and parts establishment, and the former Kelly Air Force Base to the west, residential, commercial, and industrial development to the south and east, and Somerset Road to the east.

In 2001, the EPA completed a Superfund time-critical removal action at the site. Removal actions on the northern portion of the site included the removal of asbestos-containing materials from on-site containers, equipment, piping, and from inside buildings; removal of contaminated materials from within on-site containers, equipment, and piping; removal (demolition) of on-site containers, equipment, piping, and other contaminated items; and removal of contaminated soils.

Health Considerations

A Public Health Assessment was conducted for the site in 2003 by the Texas Department of Health (TDH) under a cooperative agreement with the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The report concluded that although site-related contaminants have been detected in various environmental media, currently there are no identifiable situations where exposure to site contaminants is occurring at levels that may be associated with adverse health effects. The relatively low level of exposures may suggest that contaminant concentrations are not currently high enough to be a public health hazard or that exposures to contaminated media are infrequent. In the past, exposure to airborne contaminants may have occurred; because of the lack of historical ambient air data however, the public health significance

of this pathway could not be determined. On the basis of available information the TDH determined that this site currently poses no apparent public health hazard.

Record of Decision

A Record of Decision will be issued following completion of the Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study. There will be an opportunity for the community and interested parties to review the data and comment on the preferred remedy identified by the EPA.

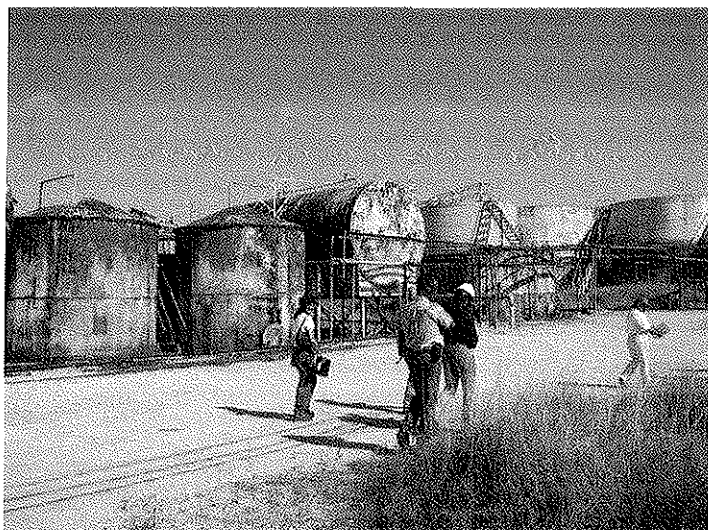
Where to get more information...

Stephen Tzhone
Remedial Project Manager
US EPA Region 6 (6SF-RA)
Tel: 214.665.8409 Fax: 214.665.6660
tzhone.stephen@epa.gov
toll free number: 1.800.533.3508

Stephen Harper
Community Involvement Coordinator/SEE
US EPA Region 6 (6SF-VO)
Tel: 214.665.2727 Fax: 214.665.6660
harper.stephen@epa.gov
toll free number: 1.800.533.3508

John Flores
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Tel: 512.239.5674
john.flores@tceq.texas.us

For press inquiries, please call the EPA Press Office at 214.665.2200.



Site photograph taken in August 2001, prior to the Superfund time critical removal action.



Site photograph taken in July 2013 showing current site conditions.



United States
Environmental Protection
Agency

Region 6
1445 Ross Ave. (6SF-VO)
Dallas, TX 75202